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COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL).

Vol. I — 1110.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday,

1st August, 1935.
16th Karkidagam, 1110.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall in Ernakulam at Eleven of the Clock with M. R. Ry. A. Sankara Menon Avl., B. A., B. L., Deputy President of the Council, in the Chair.

Messrs. K. T. Mathew and C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Begging problem—solving of.

91. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—With reference to Question 101, dated 29th November 1934, regarding the solution of the begging problem, will the Government state what further steps they have taken in the light of their assurance, "If it is possible it ought to be done"?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—No further steps have been taken as Government think that it is not possible or practicable to solve the begging problem by giving all the beggars of the State work and wages.

Mr. K. M Ibrahim:— Will the Hon'ble Member for Revenue kindly tell the House whether it is possible or practicable to give work and wages to a considerable number of the unemployed section of the beggars?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—I cannot give an off-hand answer. Condition of the beggar have to be looked into. Unless the Hon'ble Member tells me what he means by a considerable number I will not be able to give a definite answer.

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Mr K. M. Ibrahim:—If possible a considerable number; if not a majority; or some at least ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— The Hon'ble Member has given three definitions. Considerable number, some at least, a few or a majority are three ideas and obviously the Member cannot expect me to give an answer by means of one answer.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan:— Is the Government aware that all the civilized Governments have done something in the matter?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Government cannot say anything definite unless it is made clear what is meant by 'in this matter'.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan:— Begging problem.

Mr. President:— That does not come in this question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Will the Government say what they have done to solve this problem?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Government have thought and come to this conclusion, that it will not be possible to give all the beggars work and wages.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—What were the steps taken?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— It was by a mental process. We adverted to this question and we found that it will not be possible to give work and wages to all the beggars.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— We want to know whether there is anything wrong in the process. Only if we know the process we will be in a position to suggest some way. Therefore it is that I ask for this information.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— They adverted to this question and they found it is not possible to do anything.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Are there beggars in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— There are.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Have the Government any idea of the number ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— The latest census gives the number as 1,074.

Mr. P. Raman Menon:— Have they done anything to relieve any one of them ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Not to my knowledge.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Was it due to the inability or was it a failure of duty ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Have they calculated what amount will be required to relieve them? Or what stood in the way of Government in not giving relief?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Personally speaking there are many problems connected with this. There are able bodied workers who would not work, then are able bodied workers who might work if given a chance and there are workers who are unable to work. Further to give work and wages is a large question. Without a detailed enquiry Government cannot say anything in the matter. Irrespective of thatfact, it is not a stationary problem at all. It is like many other things an increasing one. The moment you absorb some there will be many more to take the place. Solving the question by giving work and wages is a big problem.

Mr. A Sivarama Menon:— Is there not a Poor House in Ernakulam?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Yes.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon:— Is the Poor House full ever since its date of inception?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— Without a Poor Legislation compelling the beggars to go to the Poor House opened at the instance of Government itwill not be possible to solve this problem of compelling the poor people to go to these Poor Houses.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon:— How many inmates are there in the Ernakulam Poor House?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— I am not in possession of accurate figures.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—The Poor House at Ernakulam is being managed by a Committee with the Chief Medical Officer as Chairman and two non-official members.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon:— Is the committee experiencing any difficulty in getting these beggars to go to the Poor House?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— Yes, it is not possible to get inmates.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon:— Have not the Committee made a remark in the Visitors' Book kept there that in the absence of a legislation in the matter no Poor House should be opened at public expense?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao:— I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—In view of the answer to supplementary question suggesting three alternatives, will the Government give an answer what they propose to do in the matter?

Mr. President:— To all the three answers have been given.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Will not the starting of State Industries go some way to reduce this?

Mr. President:— You are going far away from the question.

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